

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 01206 121650Z

72

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 EB-11 INT-08 COME-00 AID-20

DOT-00 CG-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /178 W
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R 121325Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4041

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USEC BRUSSELS

USOCD PARIS 537

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

SECDEF

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

NISRA/KEFLAVIK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 1206

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR IC UK FRG

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: UPCOMING TALKS WITH UK AND FRG

REF: REYKJAVIK 1168

1. WITH NO REPORTS OF INCIDENTS ON FISHING GROUNDS SINCE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE BY PRIMIN JOHANNESSON OF INVITATION
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TO CONFER WITH PRIMIN HEATH, WAY REMAINS CLEAR FOR JOHANNESSON

TO GO TO LONDON FOR TALKS OCTOBER 15-16. IN INTERIM, THERE HAS CLEARLY BEEN RESTRAINT ON BOTH SIDES WITH BRITISH TRAWLERS HAULING IN TRAWLS AND LEAVING DISPUTED WATERS ON SIGNAL FROM THIS CONVENIENT TIME TO ORDER ALL BUT THAT ONE CUTTER INTO PORT FOR "ROUTINE MAINTENANCE."

2. AS WAS EXPECTED, PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE NEWSPAPER, THJODVILJINN, HAS ATTACKED CG (AND PRIMIN BY IMPLICATION) FOR "FAILURE TO ENFORCE ICELANDIC LAW" ON FISHING GROUNDS AS PRIMIN HAD SAID WOULD BE DONE. HOWEVER, PRIMIN IS REPORTED UNBOTHERED BY THESE ATTACKS AND SAID TO BE "IN BETTER SPIRITS THAN IN MONTHS" AS RESULT OF HAVING TAKEN DECISIVE AND WIDELY-APPROVED ACTION.

3. PRESS ANNOUNCED NEXT SESSION OF ICELANDIC-FRG TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE IN REYKJAVIK OCT 23-24. THESE TALKS WILL AGAIN BE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL WITH ICELAND REPRESENTED BY THREE-PARTY DELEGATION INCLUDING FONMIN AGUSTSSON, FISHERIES MIN LUDVIK JOSEPHSSON, AND MIN EDUC MAGNUS TORFI OLAFSSON. WHILE THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL NO DOUBT BE DIFFICULT, THERE APPEARS SOME PRESSURE ON JOSEPHSSON FOR SETTLEMENT. SPECULATION IS THAT IF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE RESUMED WITH UK BY END OF OCTOBER (AS PRIMIN IS SAID TO HOPE), PRIOR SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT WITH FRG WOULD BE USEFUL. AT SAME TIME, SHOULD BE NOTED THAT PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS ARE USING SLOGAN "WE WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH THE BRITISH, WE WILL DEFEAT THEM." WHETHER OR NOT PA CAN CONTINUE TO BLOCK AGREEMENTS WITH FRG AND UK WILL PROBABLY DEPEND ON WHETHER PRIMIN CONTINUES TO EXERCISE HIS RECENTLY-DISCOVERED FIRMNESS.
IRVING

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